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New procedures for requesting Transifex Access and Recognition, and for viewing the Leaderboard

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Clarabelle · a month ago 🔒



The staff announcements indicating the procedures to follow to request recognition and Transifex access have been updated, and new links corresponding to these updates have been added to the menu on the left:

- Request recognition (New) <https://class.coursera.org/translations-001/courseservice/lti/v1/972103/1>
- Transifex Access (New) <https://class.coursera.org/translations-001/courseservice/lti/v1/972103/3>

and then there is a third one:

- Leaderboards (New) <https://class.coursera.org/translations-001/courseservice/lti/v1/972103/4>

All three URLs lead to pages that say:

"This course utilizes third party learning tools hosted by service providers such as translate-coursera.org. By clicking 'OK', you agree to share your Coursera user ID, full name and/or registered email address with these third parties."

If - as per basic privacy literacy - we try to see what this "translate-coursera.org" thing is before deciding whether to share our data

with it, the <http://translate-coursera.org/> page only says "Request denied". So why should we share our data with something that denies to let us access it?

OK: through the Google cache, it's possible to find out that this site can actually be accessed, but only by using the secondary URLs <http://translate-coursera.org/lander/index.html> or just <http://translate-coursera.org/lander/> .

And there, without needing to login, you can access copies or new versions of public pages about the GTC available on coursera.org, plus:

- a <http://translate-coursera.org/lander/signup.html> sign-up form (formerly done via a Google Drive form) and
- a <http://translate-coursera.org/lander/terms.html> version of the Translator Agreement, apparently identical to its third PDF version: the 4 versions are listed in [Coursera's Global Translator Community: puzzling Translator Agreement\(s\)](#).

[Update All the pages of the <http://translate-coursera.org/lander/> subdirectory have now been blocked; however the ones mentioned above can still be seen in the copies archived with Webcite:

- <http://www.webcitation.org/6Trz5G5KI> for the sign-up form, though the archived version can't be used for signing up
- <http://www.webcitation.org/6Trz92XuY> for the 4th version of the Translator Agreement]

Nevertheless, as to the recognition and Transifex request procedures, sharing our data with something whose site can only be accessed via a subdirectory doesn't seem a good idea.

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Benjamin Ries COURSERA STAFF · a month ago 🔒

Hi Claude,

translate-coursera.org is hosted within Coursera, and belongs fully to Coursera. It runs currently the scripts that are needed to issue certificates, or request access to Transifex. Translate-coursera.org receives data through the LTI Interface (<http://developers.imsglobal.org/>) that is often used by Coursera instructors to design their own assignment. We use it to report your name to our script, and report back a score to the class website. This issues then your certificate.

Hope that makes things clear, and speeds things up for all our translators!

All the best,

Ben

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Clarabelle · a month ago 🔗



Thanks for these explanations, Benjamin, however some aspects remain unclear.

To really reassure people who land on those /lti/ acceptance pages,

- their first sentence should be reworded to clarify the status of translate-coursera.org,
- the content of translate-coursera.org should be openly accessible via its main <http://translate-coursera.org/> page.

Instead, you even blocked the access to translate-coursera.org via the /lander/ subdirectory after I posted about in in this topic: why on earth?

Then why make people through this LTI interface to just [view the leaderboards](#)? What are you planning to do with the data you'll collect from them?

Last (for the time being): there is a discrepancy between the [Transifex Access \(New\)](#) link in the menu that initiates a single LTI procedure for everyone, and the updated [Access to Transifex - DeniedAccess Problems](#) staff announcement, which foresees different procedures for Russian, Chinese and Portuguese Brazilian translators. So what will happen if a Russian, Chinese or

Portuguese Brazilian translator uses the [Transifex Access \(New\)](#) link?

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Benjamin Ries COURSERA STAFF · [a month ago](#) 🔗

Hi Claude,

first, I am happy to say that there is no data we are collecting through that interface. As for the Leaderboard question, we want to make sure that you can't just type in the URL from public, but must be a GTC member to see the leaderboard.. Also for some of the functions, like issuing certificates, we need to get your user_id from Coursera, so we can report back a score (that's basically what instructors would use in the same way for assignments).

Second the URL <http://translate-coursera.org/> is currently just used for the few internal tools we offer on this site. However, we will expand to some external tools soon (like a new sign-up form). Once it's ready, you'll also be able to see more there! The Transifex Access link can't be used for those languages mentioned. So if lets say one of our Translators who translates into Russian would click the link, they would see the same content as everyone else from the GTC, but they couldn't choose Russian as a language for access to Transifex.

Hope that clarifies things :-)

All the best,

Ben

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Benjamin Ries COURSERA STAFF · [a month ago](#) 🔗

As for the correct translator agreement: Number 3 in your blog is the one we will use moving forward. It was the new version that was created by our legal department upon our translators previous request. Hope we have it all up and running soon, and we will also

distribute it through an email.

All the best,

Ben

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 Clarabelle · a month ago 



A new version created by your legal department upon your translators previous request? Oh? Really?

I can't find in these forums any translator's request that the "IN EXCHANGE FOR GOOD AND VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, THE SUFFICIENCY OF WHICH IS ACKNOWLEDGED" be scrapped.

And the fact that your legal department amended the Translator Agreement without a written instrument being previously submitted to each translator form co-signing together with Coursera remains in contradiction with point 10. Miscellaneous. Distributing it via email after it has been amended is not the same thing.

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 Clarabelle · a month ago 



Yesterday, I tried the new links of the menu.

The one on Request Recognition (New), <https://class.coursera.org/translations-001/courservice/lti/v1/972103/1> redirected me automatically - i.e. without the message about third party learning tools hosted by service providers such as translate-coursera.org that previously required clicking on OK - to https://translate-coursera.org/gtc/certificate_issuer .

That /certificate_issuer page said:

... We are happy to report that you have translated 8740 words into French (France) (fr_FR), Italian (it). We would like to recognize the time and effort you have contributed so far by letting the Coursera community know of your first achievement with the GTC. Please visit our [public recognition page](#) in the next few days to look for your name and make sure that it appears correctly. ...<

Problems with that:

- These intermediate /Iti/ pages should not redirect automatically; their warning with an OK request should stay, but be reworded more clearly.
- The link on "public recognition page" is to <http://www.coursera.org/about/translate> , whereas it should be to <https://www.coursera.org/about/meet-our-translators> .

Then in my case, the number of translated words is completely wrong: according to the graph for my translations on the Transifex dashboard, I translated 3094 words in June, and 350 words in September: nothing near 8740 words. **Maybe other volunteers could check that Request Recognition (New) for their translations and if they also find discrepancies with their dashboard stats, report them here?**

Moreover, as I already explained in [Please remove my name from the "Meet Our Translators" page](#) (1), my June translation was not reviewed, so the "consistent high-quality" criterion stipulated in the [Recognition](#) page was not verified. And as to "my" September translations, they are not actually mine. They happened when - with Gioele Ciapparone's authorization - I merely technically fixed the Italian subtitles of [Application Fundamentals - Part 2 \(11:24\)](#), which he entirely translated, but which had been messed up and amputated by Coursera's update of the English source subtitles. Fortunately, his amputated translated subtitles had been preserved in Transifex' Translation Memory, so I merely clicked on the relevant suggestions to reinstate them.

We seem to be in for a lot more of [these mess-ups caused by updates](#), according to Benjamin Ries' [October 24 post](#). And maybe not even this informal solution we used for the mentioned Italian subtitles can address them on a significant scale: I gave up after that one experience.

However, if we can't use that informal solution because it creates false positives in the stats that Coursera then uses for its recognition scheme, then most of the thusly messed up translations will stay messed up and won't be usable in courses. Because you can't expect translators whose correct work gets thoroughly messed up by Coursera's updates of the originals to spend hours fixing them. And there are not enough reviewers for most languages to do that as part of the reviewing process - apart from the fact that the vast majority of language communities don't have any reviewer anyway.

Claude

(1) May I insist on this request? I really don't want my name there, and not only because it was added in contradiction with the Recognition conditions and on the basis of erroneous stats. As a pro translator and access to knowledge advocate, I don't want to be listed as participating to a secretive initiative where Coursera hoards millions of translated words without offering anything in return: all those translated by the 96% of volunteers who are not even listed in the Meet Our Translators page. Anyway, my Coursera "course record" for the GTC more correctly says: "You earned 0.0%"

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[+ Comment](#)



Benjamin Ries COURSERA STAFF · [a month ago](#) 🔗

Hi Claude,

as for the authorization message: This message will only appear once, meaning the first time you ever enter translate-coursera.org.

As for the scoring board: Please write your request to translate@coursera.org.

Ben

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Clarabelle · a month ago



Thank you for the explanation, Benjamin. I've sent an email to translate@coursera.org.

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Clarabelle · 2 days ago

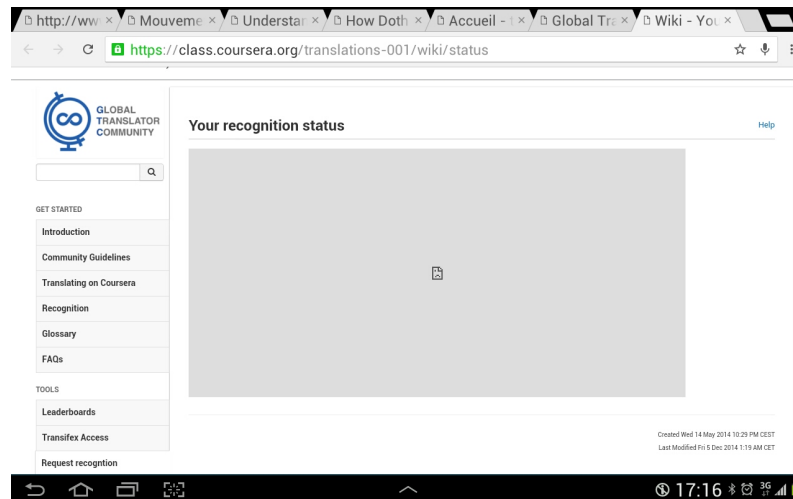


The new URL for the Request Recognition page - <https://class.coursera.org/translations-001/wiki/status> - misleadingly suggests that it is a normal "wiki" page, like the Recognition page whose URL is <https://class.coursera.org/translations-001/wiki/recognition>.

Actually not. As its source code indicates:

```
<iframe width="800" height="400" frameborder="0" scrolling="no" src="https://class.coursera.org/translations-001/courservice/lti/v1/972103/8" seamless></iframe>
```

it is just a frame for the same kind of /lti/ page as before. Which redirects, as before but within the frame, to https://translate-coursera.org/gtc/certificate_issuer_internal, which like all translate-coursera.org pages, continues not to work on Android devices. Though instead of the explicit security warning triggered by their unframed versions, what you get is:



What's the idea behind this convoluted path, pray?

Claude Almansi aka Clarabelle (see <http://piratepad.net/whyIchangedmyCourseraname>)

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 **Benjamin Ries** COURSERA STAFF · 2 days ago

Hi Claude,

we have integrated it as an iFrame for design reasons. I am unfortunately still unable to replicate the error you receive, but it is not related to Android devices in general, as I have tested this.

All the best,

Ben

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 Clarabelle · 2 days ago 



As to design reasons, Benjamin, isn't user experience a priority? These matrioshka-like redirects are confusing and can create real obstacles for people with a slow connection.

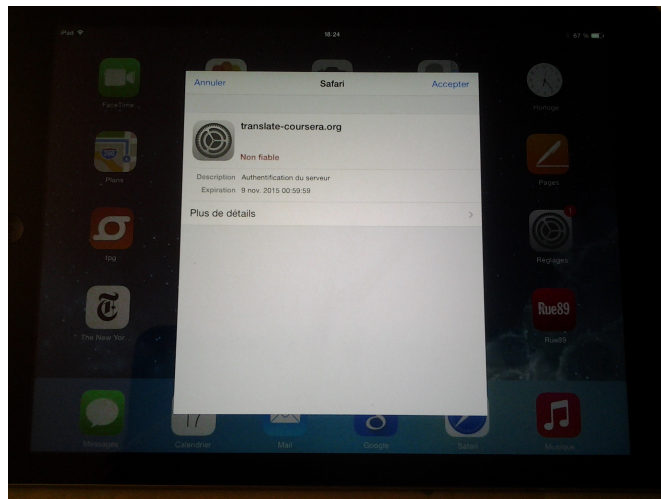
As to the error I receive: my device is a Samsung Galaxy 10.1, model GT-PT7500 with Android 4.0.4, and it is not synchronized with my Macbook where I have authorized the access to translate-coursera.org pages.

↑ 1 ↓ · flag

 Clarabelle · a day ago 



I now tried one of the pages redirecting to a translate-coursera.org page with Safari on my mother's iPad version 7.1.2 (11D257) model MD786GP/A) and I also got a securitywarning:



(Not an actual screenshot: a picture taken with my Android tablet of my mother's iPad because neither she nor I know how to make screenshots with an iPad; click on it to enlarge it)

Translation:

```
"Cancel Safari Accept
translate-coursera.org
Not trustable
Description: server authentication
Expiry date: Nov. 9,2015 00:59:59
More details"
```

Just wondering: could it be that the sensitivity to privacy risks is somehow set by default in function of the data protection law of the country where the device is sold?

In the US, this data protection law is lax compared to those of European countries. Hence the section about **"Safe Harbor"** in Coursera's [Privacy Policy](#), which says:

```
"We are currently in the process of obtaining formal self-certification
of our adherence to both the U.S.-EU Safe Harbor Framework and the
U.S.-Swiss Safe Harbor Framework."
```

Now if Coursera's `translate-coursera.org` pages for the GTC use a means that triggers a privacy security alert in devices bought in the EU and Switzerland, wouldn't that put the obtainment of this "formal certification" of its adherence to these Safe Harbor Frameworks at risk?

And as a consequence, should we refrain from promoting the GTC within course platforms, as we were planning to do in the [Getting more people involved](#) discussion thread here? In fact, at least one European University (EPFL) that provides courses on Coursera makes it compulsory for its "normal" students to watch the pertinent lecture videos in the Coursera version (1). Probably more do too. So it might be problematic for them to let these students participate in the GTC, because of these

translate-coursera.org pages.

Could you sort that out, please?

(1) See "[Comment les cours massifs en ligne vont changer l'éducation](#)", a radio interview of Pierre Dillenbourg, Academic Director of EPFL's Center for Digital Education MOOCS FACTORY. Radiotélévision Suisse Romande, Sept. 25, 2015 ([captioned version](#)).

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Benjamin Ries COURSERA STAFF · 13 hours ago 🔒

Hi Claude,

the security certificate that we use is issued by COMODO. Basically once you do a request to an HTTPS site the browser checks one of the SSL providers (in our case COMODO) if we bought a certificate with them. This is universal and not related to geographic locations. All the traffic is sent through 128bit SSL connections, so all data is absolutely safe no matter what the browser says. The problem that you see is, that for some reason I cannot explain so far, COMODO doesn't reply with a positive answer to your browser request (and this simple is a confirmation that we bought a certificate with them, which we did). I have written to COMODO to troubleshoot this and attached your screenshots. Besides both the GTC and Coursera are hosted on the same servers within Amazon AWS, so every data that is transmitted through the GTC never leaves Coursera.

Hope that was helpful.

All the best,

Ben

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